

Announcement of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to restore water quality in streams located in the Upper Rappahannock River Basin that are contaminated with bacteria.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announce the third series of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings for the Upper Rappahannock River Basin TMDL study.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Rappahannock Watershed Technical Advisory Committee, Tuesday, February 27, 2007

10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Culpeper Train Depot, 109 S. Commerce Street, Culpeper, VA 22701

Rapidan Watershed Technical Advisory Committee, Tuesday, February 27, 2007

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Culpeper Train Depot, 109 S. Commerce Street, Culpeper, VA 22701

***In case of inclement weather, the alternative meeting date for both TACs is Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at the Culpeper Train Depot. The meeting times will be the same as listed above.*

MEETING DESCRIPTION: This is the third series of meetings of the technical advisory committees for this project. The TMDL study addresses elevated levels of bacteria in 16 stream segments in the Upper Rappahannock River Basin.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of bacteria contamination in stream segments in the Upper Rappahannock River Basin. The impaired stream segments are located in Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, and Spotsylvania counties, and their location is set forth in the table below. Since the watershed is so large, two technical advisory committees were formed for this project: 1) Upper Rappahannock River TAC and 2) Rapidan River TAC.

Rappahannock Watershed Technical Advisory Committee					
Stream Name	Locality	Impairment	Length (miles)	Upstream Limit	Downstream Limit
Hughes River	Culpeper Rappahannock	Bacteria	3.68	Kilbys Run	Hazel River
Hazel River	Culpeper	Bacteria	16.67	Rt. 707 Bridge	Unnamed Tributary
Hazel River	Culpeper	Bacteria	3.32	Indian Run	Muddy Run
Rush River	Rappahannock	Bacteria	4.55	Unnamed Tributary	Big Branch
Rappahannock River	Fauquier Rappahannock	Bacteria	2.17	Jordan River	UT
Marsh Run	Fauquier	Bacteria	8.35	Craig Run	Rappahannock River
Browns Run	Fauquier	Bacteria	2.39	Unnamed Tributary	Marsh Run
Craig Run	Fauquier	Bacteria	3.61	Headwaters of Craig Run	Marsh Run
Rappahannock River	Culpeper Fauquier	Bacteria	2.02	Ruffans Run	Tinpot Run

Rappahannock River	Culpeper Fauquier	Bacteria	2.85	Unnamed Tributary	Marsh Run
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Rapidan Watershed Technical Advisory Committee					
Stream Name	Locality	Impairment	Length (miles)	Upstream Limit	Downstream Limit
Blue Run	Orange Albemarle	Bacteria	11.61	Headwaters of Blue Run	Rapidan River
Rapidan River	Culpeper Madison Orange	Bacteria	7.5	Poplar Run	Robinson River
Marsh Run	Greene Madison Orange	Bacteria	5.19	Headwaters of Marsh Run	Rapidan River
Unnamed Tributary to Rapidan River	Madison Orange	Bacteria	2.57	Headwaters of Unnamed Tributary	Rapidan River
Cedar Run	Culpeper Orange	Bacteria	5.4	Buck Run	Rapidan River
Rapidan River	Culpeper Spotsylvania	Bacteria	2.68	Wilderness Run	Middle Run

During the study, DEQ will develop a total maximum daily load, or a TMDL, for each of the impaired stream segments. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL allocated amount. A series of public meetings will be held during March 2007 for the purpose of presenting the draft TMDL Report to the public. A comment period will be held in conjunction with those meetings.

HOW TO COMMENT: The public comment period on the materials presented at the TAC meetings, including draft allocation scenarios, will extend from February 27, 2007 to March 29, 2007. DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Please send all comments to the contact listed below.

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